

Application Serial No.: 09/932,930
Reply to Office Action dated September 25, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8, 12, and 17 are presently active in this case, Claim 1 having been amended by way of the present Amendment. Claims 9-11, 13-16, and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 10. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claim 12 is in condition for allowance. (See paragraph number 3 on page 2 of the Official Action.)

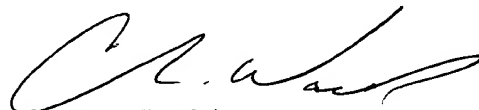
The cancellation of Claims 9-11, 13-16, and 18 renders the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) moot. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the art rejections.

The Applicant notes that two amendments have been made to Claim 1. The Applicant submits that Claim 1, and all of the claims dependent thereon, remain in condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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